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MLAC INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING: 5TH OCTOBER 2005

1) **UK Threat Assessment (UKTA)**

The last MLAC briefing outlined the pending UKTA unclassified version that is now published on the NCIS website. It is recommended reading in its entirety for those in the reporting sectors as it enables the reader to understand better the wider criminal environment.

2) **NIR**

The last MLAC briefing outlined the National Intelligence Requirements that have been agreed by the Organised Crime Strategy Group and are to serve as a working draft before full implementation 1/4/06. They follow the headings of the UKTA and are designed to build up the knowledge of those assessed threats. The NCIS is discussing with law enforcement partners how these reports should be marshalled- i.e. format and content. Whatever the format they should answer 6 basic questions, the same questions that reporters of SARs should have in mind when reporting: **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW, and WHY.**

3) **Unclassified Assessments**

Five were issued on 27th September to the Reporting and Feedback Working Party together with a paper explaining their purpose, the means of building knowledge jointly with the regulated sectors, and proposals for wider dissemination to the general public.

Three further unclassified assessments are in production on the subjects of *Cash and its use in money laundering*, *Politically Exposed Persons*, and *The Use of SARs by Police Forces in Wales*.

4) **SOCA Review of the SAR Regime**

The MLAC meeting will hear in detail from the Review Team. NCIS is fully engaged with the review and is providing access to all SAR and other financial intelligence.

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5) **Improved Inter-Agency Working**

Each month NCIS Financial Intelligence (SFI) holds an internal tasking and co-ordination meeting to review and drive forward its financial intelligence activities, ensuring delivery of impactful products (both operational and strategic). Last month for the first time it invited external partners (representatives from the FSA Intelligence team, HMRC Money Laundering National Intelligence Unit, and NCS financial intelligence team). This was considered by all to be successful and will continue each month. The first meeting identified similar work that had been and was being undertaken independently that we are now combining thereby producing stronger, better informed knowledge.

Building on this, a working group of law enforcement and intelligence agencies will meet in October, hosted by the FSA, to share knowledge on money laundering methodologies, vulnerabilities and emerging risks. This group will draw mainly from covert sources and operations rather than from SARs however the findings will be corroborated by SARs and will assist the FSA and the reporting sectors to reduce the extent to which businesses are used by criminal groups.

6) **ELMER Roll-Out**

52 police forces in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and HMRC are connected to the ELMER SAR database. All have agreed and signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) setting out the usage and emphasising the need for confidentiality in accordance with the Home Office guidelines.

NCIS has trained over 300 officers in the use of ELMER including those who can now train their colleagues. 452 users have registered with the site of whom 329 have completed the set-up and have free access to the database. NCIS has received positive reports from many users ranging from the national agency HMRC to small police forces.